

variations will become apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the foregoing description. Accordingly, it is intended that the present invention embrace all such alternatives, modifications and variations as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of providing a channel of television programming to a class of
2 subscribers, comprising:

3 receiving programming content from a first subscriber, the first subscriber
4 being one of the class of subscribers, the programming content being transmitted
5 electronically from the first subscriber via a first subscriber's set-top box; and

6 multicasting the programming content to the class of subscribers, the
7 multicasting being carried out by addressing a set-top box corresponding to each
8 subscriber belonging to the class of subscribers.

9
10 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the programming content is
11 received from the first subscriber by an upload to a service provider via a dial-up
12 narrowband telephone communication link.

13
14 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the programming content is
15 received from the first subscriber by an upload to a service provider via a wideband
16 telephone communication link.

17
18 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the programming content is
19 received from the first subscriber by an upload to a service provider via a cable
20 modem communication link.

1 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the multicasting comprises
2 multicasting the programming content over a leased digital television channel.

3
4 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the multicasting is carried out by:
5 encrypting the programming content using an encryption key;
6 providing the encryption key to the class of subscribers; and
7 broadcasting the encrypted programming content to the class of subscribers.

8
9 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the class of subscribers comprise
0 one of a family, affiliates of a corporate entity, and people with a common interest.

1 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the programming content is
2 received from the first subscriber by an upload to a service provider of content from
3 one of a still camera, a video camera, a video tape player, an audio tape player, a
4 CD players, a PVR and a scanner.

1 9. A method of providing a channel of television programming to a class of
2 subscribers, wherein the class of subscribers comprise one of a family, affiliates
3 of a corporate entity, and people with a common interest, the method comprising
4 in combination:

5 receiving programming content from a first subscriber, the first subscriber
6 being one of the class of subscribers, the programming content being transmitted
7 electronically from the first subscriber via a first subscriber's set-top box;

8 wherein the programming content is received from the first subscriber by an
9 upload to a service provider via one of a dial-up narrowband telephone
10 communication link, a wideband telephone communication link and a cable
11 modem communication link;

12 and

13 multicasting the programming content over a leased digital television
14 channel to the class of subscribers, the multicasting being carried out by
15 addressing a set-top box corresponding to each subscriber belonging to the class
16 of subscribers by:

17 encrypting the programming content using an encryption key;

18 providing the encryption key to the class of subscribers; and

19 broadcasting the encrypted programming content to the class of
20 subscribers.

1 10. A method of providing a channel of television programming to a class of
2 subscribers, comprising:
3 establishing the class of subscribers and leasing a television channel from
4 a service provider;
5 electronically transmitting programming content from a first subscriber to the
6 service provider, the first subscriber being one of the class of subscribers, the
7 programming content being transmitted from the first subscriber via the first
8 subscriber's set-top box;
9 scheduling playback of the programming content; and
10 multicasting the programming content over the leased television channel to
11 the class of subscribers.

12
13 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the multicasting is carried out
14 by addressing a set-top box corresponding to each subscriber belonging to the
15 class of subscribers for transmission of the content.

16
17 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the multicasting is carried out
18 by:
19 encrypting the programming content using an encryption key;
20 providing the encryption key to the class of subscribers; and
21 broadcasting the encrypted programming content to the class of subscribers.

1 13. The method according to claim 10, wherein the television channel comprises
2 a digital television channel.

3
4 14. The method according to claim 10, wherein the programming content is
5 received from the first subscriber by an upload to the service provider via one of a
6 dial-up narrowband telephone communication link, a wideband telephone
7 communication link and a cable modem communication link.

8
9 15. The method according to claim 10, wherein the programming content is
10 received from the first subscriber by an upload to a service provider of content from
11 one of a still camera, a video camera, a video tape player, an audio tape player, a
12 CD players, a PVR and a scanner.

13
14 16. The method according to claim 10, further comprising removing the
15 programming content by:

16 requesting a schedule arbiter to remove the content; and
17 the schedule arbiter removing the content.

18
19 17. The method according to claim 10, wherein the scheduling is carried out by
20 a schedule arbiter.

1 18. A method of providing a channel of television programming to a class of
2 subscribers, comprising:

3 establishing the class of subscribers and leasing a digital television channel
4 from a service provider;

5 electronically transmitting programming content from a first subscriber to the
6 service provider, the first subscriber being one of the class of subscribers, the
7 programming content being transmitted from the first subscriber via the first
8 subscriber's set-top box;

9 wherein the programming content is received from the first subscriber by an
10 upload to the service provider via one of a dial-up narrowband telephone
11 communication link, a wideband telephone communication link and a cable
12 modem communication link;

13 wherein the programming content is received from the first subscriber by an
14 upload to a service provider of content from one of a still camera, a video camera,
15 a video tape player, an audio tape player, a CD players, a PVR and a scanner;

16 a schedule arbiter scheduling playback of the programming content;

17 multicasting the programming content over the leased television channel to
18 the class of subscribers by addressing a set-top box corresponding to each
19 subscriber belonging to the class of subscribers for transmission of the content by:

20 encrypting the programming content using an encryption key;

21 providing the encryption key to the class of subscribers;

broadcasting the encrypted programming content to the class of subscribers;

removing the programming content from the schedule by:

- requesting a schedule arbiter to remove the content; and
- the schedule arbiter removing the content.